

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 9, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 9 and 23 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 8, 11, and 17-20 have been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 10, 12-16, and 21-22 are pending for prosecution on the merits. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, 9, 10, 12, and 13 are provisionally rejected under the obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 6-9, 14-16, and 19 of co-pending Application No. 10/580,115. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the provisional rejection, however, Applicants will address this provisional rejection when this is the only rejection pending in this application.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 23 is now canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to this claim is now moot.

Claims 1-7, 10, 12-16, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,337,500 to Enokizono (hereinafter “Enokizono”) in view of U.S. Patent NO. 5,277,210 to Kim (“Kim”). Claim 23 is now canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to this claim is now moot. As to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 recite, among other features, the air duct further includes a portion between the condensed water discharge port and the vapor exhaust port, the portion being inclined at a predetermined angle to dispose the condensed water discharge port lower than the vapor exhaust port.

The Office Action at page 5 acknowledges that Enokizono does not disclose an air duct having a vapor exhaust port spaced apart from the condensed water discharge port for exhausting vapor, from which the moisture has been removed, outside of the dishwasher. However, The Office Action asserts that Kim compensates for the deficiency of Enokizono. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action at page 6 associates Kim's discharge outlet 106 with the claimed vapor exhaust port and Kim's condensed water tube 207 with the claimed condensed water discharge port. However, claims 1 and 11 now recite that a portion between the condensed water discharge port and the vapor exhaust port, the portion being inclined at a predetermined angle to dispose the condensed water discharge port lower than the vapor exhaust port.

Neither Kim's FIG.3 nor its corresponding passage disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 recite patentable subject matter.

Claims 2-7, 12-16, and 21-22 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency from the respective claims 1 and 11.

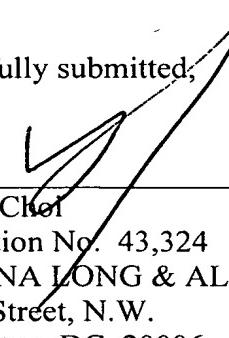
CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


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